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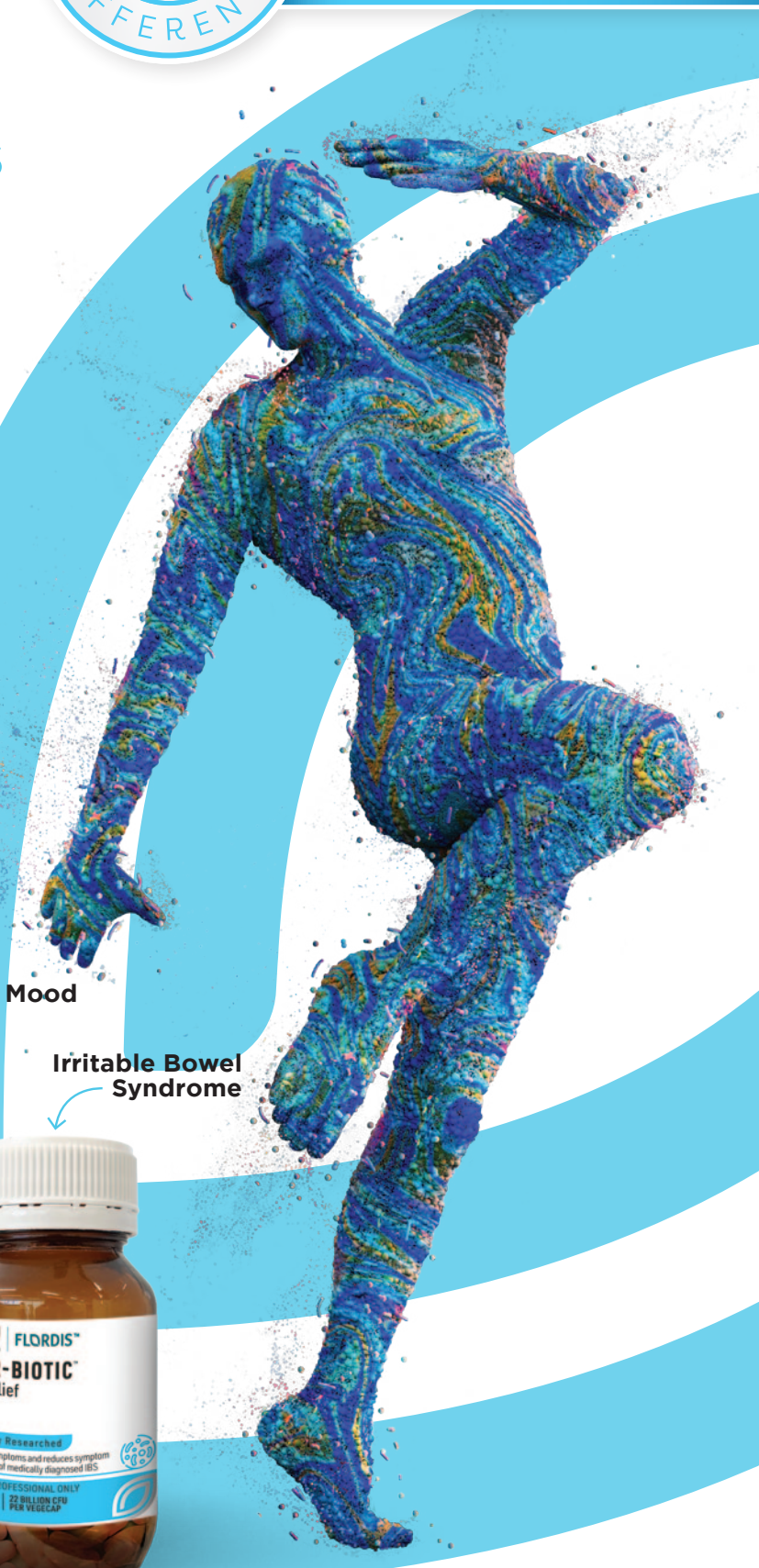
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From your gut to your immune system to your mind, THER-BIOTIC™ probiotics contain clinically researched therapeutic probiotic strains that produce specific health benefits.

Discover THER-BIOTIC™ - a probiotic range you can count on:

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- Optimal therapeutic dose
- Condition specific
- Fridge-free convenience
- One a day dosage



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**Recommend THER-BIOTIC for tailored probiotic support.**

**Always read the label and follow the directions for use.**

Del Piano, et al. 2010, *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology*, Vol. 44, S30-S34.; Reid, G, et al. 2003, 'Oral use of Lactobacillus rhamnosus GR-1 and L. fermentum RC-14 significantly alters vaginal flora', *FEMS Immunology & Medical Microbiology*, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp.131-134. Funded by Procter and Gamble, NSERC and Kidney Foundation of Canada; Diop, L, et al. 2008, 'Probiotic food supplement reduces stress-induced gastrointestinal symptoms in volunteers: a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized trial', *Nutrition Research*, Vol. 28, No. 1. Sponsored by Lallemand SAS.

## Maintain salt balance with Saltabs

For use where salt replacement is necessary.



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## Probiotic support

**INTEGRATIVE** medicine specialist, Flordis, is providing pharmacists with a checklist to help them provide the right Ther-Biotic probiotics for their customers' individual needs. See **cover page** for more.

# Rural healthcare 'untenable': Guild

**PHARMACISTS** need to be empowered to play a greater role in the delivery of primary healthcare services in rural areas to ease GPs' workloads, Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, believes.

In an opinion piece published in *The Land* on Sun, Heffernan noted that patients in some parts of rural NSW have been forced to wait more than six weeks for an appointment to see their GP, due to workforce shortages.

"Patients shouldn't have to wait days or even weeks to access something like a travel vaccination, cholesterol test or to treat a simple skin infection," he said.

"An asthma attack doesn't wait for a GP appointment, a urinary tract infection doesn't wait for a GP appointment.

"These are common, manageable health conditions that could be safely delegated to well-trained local pharmacists with appropriate training.

"Enabling pharmacists to provide everyday health services is an obvious, practical step that can be taken to give quicker access to healthcare support now.

"We are not talking about pharmacists taking on major diagnostic work.

"We are talking about routine health care like administering the full range of vaccinations, travel medicine, antivirals, or conducting flu screening.

"This will free up GPs to deal with more complex issues.

"Queensland has already recognised this by permanently offering treatment of urinary tract infections at community pharmacies. The pharmacist follows the same protocol as a GP and the

program was supported by both sides of politics.

"The health system has some complex challenges and there will be a range of measures needed.

"Regional community pharmacies are ready to be part of the solution."

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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news as well as a cover wrap from **Flordis**.

## FRED DISPENSE

+PLUS

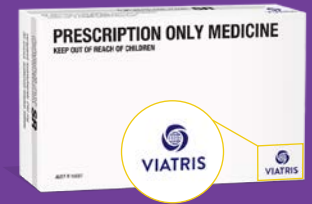
### Features that are FASTER

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## QUM needs appropriate funding: PSA

**PHARMACISTS** need to be adequately funded to take advantage of opportunities to play a greater role in the promotion of quality use of medicines (QUM), the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) believes.

Marking the seventh annual Meds Safety Week, which runs until 13 Nov, PSA National President, Dr Fei Sim, called on the Federal Government to look to provide pharmacists with access to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), to fund a range of pharmacist-led services.

Sim noted that evidence showed that close to half of the 400,000 emergency department presentations across Australia each year were the result of medicine-related problems, which pharmacists could help prevent.

“The use of medicines is the most common intervention in health care,” she said.

“The safe and appropriate use of medicines transforms people’s



health for the better.

“Pharmacists already play an important role in medicine safety, but there are opportunities for us to be doing more.

“Pharmacists, as medicine safety experts, should be embedded wherever medicines are used to reduce the risk of medicine-related problems.

“All pharmacists, regardless of their practice setting, continue to play an increasingly important role

in ensuring the QUM.

“As pharmacist [led] services continue to expand, we need to ensure that consultations are appropriately funded based on time and complexity, possibly through the MBS.

“This is something that PSA has been calling on the Federal Government to explore to ensure that access to expert pharmacist advice remains available to all Australians.”

## Pharmacy group backs sun safety

**CAPITAL** Chemist Group is rolling out its new “brand agnostic” *Play Safe in the Sun* campaign to promote sun smart messages.

The group has launched a range of materials as part of the campaign, which it will distribute through its pharmacists and community partnerships with children’s sports organisations.

“We don’t care which sunscreen you use, or which brand of rashie you wear, as long as they are high quality,” Capital Chemist Group Business Manager, Andrew Topp, said.

“We just want everyone involved in kids sport, from young to old, to be aware and to be careful.

“One single episode of blistering sunburn in childhood doubles the chances of melanoma as an adult.”

### INTRODUCING

**spikevax™ bivalent**  
original / omicron  
(elasomeran / imelasomeran)  
COVID-19 Vaccine

## THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 HAS JUST RECEIVED A BOOST<sup>1</sup>

### Next-gen COVID-19 vaccine

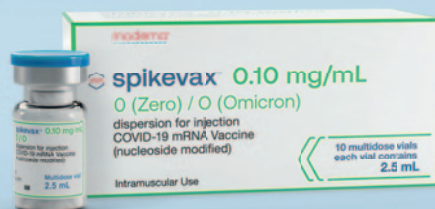
- **Superior immune response<sup>\*</sup> against Omicron vs SPIKEVAX Original<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>\*</sup>Comparing neutralising antibody titres.

- **Safety profile consistent with SPIKEVAX Original<sup>1</sup>**
- **Now available as a booster for adults ≥18 years<sup>1</sup>**



For more information call the Moderna Medical Information team on **1800 344 018** or visit [www.modernatx.com.au](http://www.modernatx.com.au)



Moderna’s SPIKEVAX BIVALENT Original/Omicron COVID-19 vaccine has provisional approval as a booster for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2, in individuals 18 years of age and older.<sup>1</sup>

**PBS Information:** This product is not listed on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) or the PBS.

▼ This vaccine is subject to additional monitoring in Australia. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse events at [www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems](http://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems).

BEFORE PRESCRIBING, PLEASE REVIEW PRODUCT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM [HTTPS://MODERNACOV19GLOBAL.COM/EN-AU](https://modernacovid19global.com/en-au) OR FROM MODERNA AUSTRALIA ON 1800 344 018.

**Reference: 1.** Spikevax Bivalent Product Information, September 2022.

**moderna**

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## Dispensary Corner

**A NEW** mum who breakfasted on a poppy seed bagel in the USA the morning before she delivered her baby has been battling with authorities, after a drug test taken on admission to hospital came back positive for opioids.

New Jersey-based Caitlyn Ricci took to social media to explain her plight and issue a warning to other expectant mothers.

She said she arrived at the hospital at 39 weeks to be induced, and was asked to give a urine sample.

"They drug test you in New Jersey at hospitals, which is not a big deal, I wasn't worried about it," she said.

However "they came back and told me my drug test is positive for opioids. Opioids! I was like, 'No, definitely not. Did you mix my sample up? I'm very confused'."

The nurse mentioned poppy seeds, at which point she and her husband realised they had eaten bagels earlier that day.

She subsequently delivered her new son after a long labour and eventually an emergency Caesarean, and the baby was tested for opioids too.

"So his test comes back negative, we think everything is fine," Ricci said.

"No, apparently now it needs to be reported to the state, like literally child protective services this needs to be reported to."

That ended up with an in-hospital interview, in turn requiring a check of her home and another drug test four days after the baby was born.

She urged midwives and obstetricians to tell pregnant women to avoid poppy seeds during their last trimester.

"I don't think anyone should have to go through some of the things I went through.

"I would have skipped the bagel had I known this was going to happen," she said.

## Massive online ambitions for CWH

**CHEMIST** Warehouse (CWH) says its new web-based marketplace (*PD* breaking news) takes the company "one step closer to being Australia's one-stop digital retailer".

CWH Head of e-Commerce and Digital Customer Experience, Nick Blatt, confirmed that while the updated site will continue to build on and drive the core values of the company's brand, it also provides a huge opportunity to expand the products available.

"Introducing a marketplace allows both existing and new suppliers access to an unlimited digital shelf space," Blatt enthused, with the move opening up a "whole new opportunity for our e-commerce channel to grow".

Until now the CWH e-commerce and in-store category and product offerings had consistently aligned, apart from a few online and in-store only items, because historically the company's 450-plus stores and distribution centres across Australia and New Zealand had been restricted to physical capacity.

The new system, developed in partnership with global shopping platform Marketplacer, already offers customers a broader range of products than is currently available for in-store purchase, and offerings from additional suppliers will be added in the coming months, Blatt confirmed.

He said Marketplacer had been selected after a detailed



assessment of the available platforms currently in use here.

"Marketplacer has an impressive portfolio of large retailers in Australia and met other functional and capability criteria when we were looking for a technology vendor with which to partner."

Blatt said there had been some technical difficulties with the integration, with CWH retrofitting the new marketplace into its existing e-commerce framework and technology stack.

"While this created challenges, it was the most suitable strategy for our intentions," he said.

"Not only was it important to understand how every main area of CWH operated, but also all the associated processes and workflows.

"Marketplacer has worked very closely with us for the past

12 months and the results of this effort are now live for our customers," he added.

Benefits for suppliers will include opportunities to sell more of their products to a "highly active and engaged audience", Blatt noted.

"For new suppliers, we now have an opportunity to support brands that may not have conventionally been in a position to be stocked and shelved in our stores".

The updated site, which is now live at [chemistwarehouse.com.au](http://chemistwarehouse.com.au), touts its credentials as "Australia's #1 Online Pharmacy", and offers in-store click and collect options as well as free shipping for orders over \$50 along with a flat rate of \$8.95 for orders under \$50.

The same platform has also been adapted for the New Zealand market at [chemistwarehouse.co.nz](http://chemistwarehouse.co.nz).

### France expands vaccine access

**AUTHORITIES** in France are moving to improve vaccine uptake by giving pharmacists the green light to administer all types of vaccinations.

Previously French pharmacists were limited to providing, flu, COVID-19 and monkeypox shots.

Additional legislation is set to be passed next year to allow pharmacists to prescribe certain vaccines that currently require a prescription.

### Win with Dermal Therapy

Dermal Therapy and Pharmacy Daily are giving away a \$50 Prezee Card every day this week!



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## Ramsey awaits sentencing

THREE firms, Natural Franchises Pty Ltd, SARMS International Pty Ltd, and Smart Labs Pty Ltd, and their sole director, Christopher Ramsey, have entered guilty pleas to more than 200 offences related to the manufacture, supply and promotion of unapproved therapeutic goods.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) revealed that it conducted an extensive investigation in 2019 and 2020, which found Ramsey and his companies were manufacturing and selling selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs) and nootropics, that were not included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG), in accordance with the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

The regulator described SARMs as “experimental medicines claimed to build muscle mass and bone density”, noting they are scheduled as Prescription-Only medications in Australia.

In addition to the promotion and sale of products not listed on the ARTG, the TGA’s investigation found that a product supplied by one of Ramsey’s companies, Natural Franchises Pty Ltd, contained the Schedule 10 ingredient, Cardarine, which is prohibited in Australia due to being a potential carcinogen.

“Sentencing for this matter is set for hearing at Downing Centre Local Court in Sydney on 15 and 17 Mar 2023,” the TGA said.

## Low-dose aspirin doesn't save falls

DAILY low-dose aspirin does not reduce the risk of fractures or serious falls in healthy older men and women, according to a new paper published this week by *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

The research is a sub-study of the ASPREE (ASpirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) trial which aimed to determine if daily low-dose aspirin (100mg) reduces the risk of falls.

The placebo-controlled trial led locally by Monash University, which involves 16,703 Australians and 2,411 in the USA, found the risk of first fracture was similar in the aspirin and placebo groups, but the risk of serious fall was statistically significantly greater in the patients taking aspirin, with a total of 884 falls compared to 804 in those on the placebo.



The findings indicate a potential additional risk for the use of low-dose aspirin in initially healthy older people - but the authors also noted that the findings don't apply to those with a medical reason to take

aspirin, such as after a heart attack.

Monash Executive Director of Research and Innovation, Associate, Professor Anna Barker, noted that “older adults with a medical reason to take aspirin should continue to do so”.

“[But] for healthy older people without heart disease or prior stroke, aspirin appears to provide little benefit and may do more harm than good by increasing a person’s risk of having a serious fall.

“Falls are frequent for many older people and can have several negative impacts including fractures, soft tissue injuries, loss of confidence and independence.

“They are a frequent reason an older person attends an emergency department and needs to receive care in hospital,” Barker said.

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

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